

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00414 01 OF 02 102204Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 SSM-03 HA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /079 W

-----109544 102226Z /72

O R 101720Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0483
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0414

T.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS, PGOV
SUBJECT: SUNDAY'S CABINET SESSION: AN ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY: THE CABINET, IN ITS SUNDAY SESSION, REJECTED
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI, BUT VOTED
TO STRENGTHEN THOSE ALREADY IN EXISTENCE AND ANNOUNCED
PLANS FOR THREE (POSSIBLY FOUR) MORE SETTLEMENTS IN THE
WEST BANK. WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE AN AFFIRMATION OF THE TACIT
ISMAILIA UNDERSTANDING THAT NO NEW SETTLEMENT "FACTS" WOULD BE
CREATED AND INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO MAKE
HARD DECISIONS DESPITE PRESSURES FROM THE RIGHT.
AGRICULTURE MINISTER ARIEL SHARON SUFFERED A DOUBLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00414 01 OF 02 102204Z

DEFEAT: HIS SETTLEMENT PLANS WERE REJECTED AND HE WAS
REFUSED INCLUSION IN THE POLITICAL DELEGATION. THE
NEGOTIATING TEAM MEMBERS WERE APPROVED: MOST ARE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE MINISTRY TECHNICIANS,
WHO ARE EXPECTED TO BE LOYAL MEMBERS OF THE BEGIN-DAYAN-
WEIZMAN TEAM. END SUMMARY

1. IN A LONG AND INTENSE SESSION, THE CABINET ON SUNDAY VOTED TO PROHIBIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI AND NAMED THE MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI POLITICAL AND MILITARY DELEGATIONS. BOTH DECISIONS REPRESENTED SHARP DEFEATS FOR AGRICULTURE MINISTER ARIEL SHARON. THE DISCUSSION ON THE SETTLEMENT QUESTION FOLLOWED SEVERAL DAYS OF CONFUSION ARISING FROM CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS OF A SIMILAR DECISION TAKEN BY THE CABINET LAST WEEK IN ITS CAPACITY AS MINISTERIAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE. THE AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE CABINET DECISION, MADE AT THE BEHEST OF DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN, STATES THAT NO NEW SETTLEMENTS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN SINAI, BUT THAT EXISTING VILLAGES IN THE RAFAH AREA AND ALONG THE EAST COAST OF SINAI WOULD BE STRENGTHENED "BY EXTENDING THE LANDS AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURE AND INCREASING THE CIVILIAN AND RURAL POPULATIONS...THESE EXISTING VILLAGES WOULD REMAIN WHERE THEY WERE ACCORDING TO THE ISRAELI PEACE PLAN." THE DECISION WAS PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE, WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION, HOWEVER, OF SHARON AND SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS. IN UNUSUALLY RANCOROUS PERSONAL EXCHANGES, SHARON WAS ACCUSED BY SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES OF DELIBERATELY MISINTERPRETING THE PREVIOUS CABINET DECISION IN AN EFFORT TO "CREATE FACTS" IN THE FIELD AND FORCE THE GOVERNMENT'S HAND IN FAVOR OF NEW SETTLEMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00414 01 OF 02 102204Z

2. THE CABINET ALSO APPROVED BY MAJORITY VOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE NEW SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK, REPORTEDLY ONE PER MONTH OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. THE DMC AND LIBERAL MINISTERS, OPPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENT IN ANY OF THE TERRITORIES PRIOR TO NEGOTIATION, VOTED AGAINST. THE DMC WILL APPEAL THEIR CASE TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST REFERS, IN PASSING, TO FOUR NEW SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK.

3. THE CABINET UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE COMPOSITION OF THE MILITARY DELEGATION, AS FOLLOWS: WEIZMAN, DEPUTY DEFENCE MINISTER ZIPORI, CHIEF OF STAFF MORDECHAI GUR, HEAD OF THE IDF PLANNING DIVISION AVRAHAM TAMIR, CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SHLOMO GAZIT, FOREIGN MINISTRY LIAISON MOSHE SASSON, WEIZMAN'S MILITARY SECRETARY ILAN TEHILA, MILITARY LEGAL ADVISOR ZVI EPHRAL, AND "SPOKESMAN" DAVID KOLITZ (A FRIEND OF WEIZMAN). MORE CONTROVERSIAL WAS THE MAKE-UP OF THE POLITICAL DELEGATION, GIVEN PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S

SUPPORT FOR SHARON AS DAYAN'S DEPUTY
(REPORTEDLY BECAUSE HE IS THOUGHT LESS DANGEROUS IF CO-OPTED
INTO THE DECISION-MAKING). DUE TO OPPOSITION, CENTERING
AROUND THE DMC AND THE NRP (AND INCLUDING, AS WELL, LIBERALS
IN THE LIKUD), SHARON'S NOMINATION WAS REJECTED. THE DMC
AND NRP OPPOSED THE NOMINATION OSTENSIBLY ON PARTISAN GROUNDS,
OBJECTING TO INCLUSION OF ANOTHER LIKUD MINISTER WITHOUT
COMPARABLE REPRESENTATION FOR THE LIKUD'S COALITION PARTNERS.
THIS CORE OF OPPOSITION WAS JOINED, HOWEVER, BY OTHERS WHO
RESENTED SHARON'S RECENT BEHAVIOR AND WELCOMED AN OPPORTUNITY
TO CLIP HIS WINGS. THE POLITICAL DELEGATION - AS REPORTED
IN THE PRESS--WILL THEREFORE BE COMPOSED OF DAYAN, DEPUTY
DEFENSE MINISTER MORDECHAI ZIPORI, (WHO WILL FUNCTION
INTERMITTENTLY IN BOTH COMMITTEES), ATTORNEY-GENERAL SHARON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TEL AV 00414 01 OF 02 102204Z

BARAK, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL EPHRAIM EVRON,
MFA LEGA ADVISOR MEIR ROSENNE, AND OTHERS AS THE NEED ARISES.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00414 02 OF 02 102202Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 SSM-03 HA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /079 W

-----109472 102225Z /72

O R 101720Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0484
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0414

4. COMMENT: THE CABINET HAS FIRMLY REJECTED ANY CHANGE IN THE SETTLEMENT STATUS QUO IN THE SINAI WHICH MIGHT BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. THE FACT THAT LAST WEEK'S DECISION TO THIS EFFECT WAS MIS-INTERPRETED BY SOME IS INDICATIVE OF THE AMBIVALENCE AND ANGUISH WITH WHICH THE WHOLE QUESTION OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT AROUSES HERE. THIS EXPLAINS, AS WELL, THE RESENTMENT TOWARD SHARON, WHO ATTEMPTED (BY MEANS OF A CAMPAIGN OF LEAKS AND RUMORS) TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS ATMOSPHERE FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES. SETTLEMENT REMAINS AN IDEOLOGICALLY SACROSANCT PRIORITY WHICH MUST RECEIVE EXPRESSION IF NOT IN NEW SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI, THEN AT LEAST IN THEIR STRENGTHENING THERE AND IN PLANS FOR NEW ONES ON THE WEST BANK. HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00414 02 OF 02 102202Z

THE VOTE OPPOSING NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE SINAI REPRESENTS A REALISTIC APPRECIATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NECESSARY PRACTICAL LIMITS IN ADHERING TO HISTORICAL REFLEXES AND IDEOLOGICAL DOGMA. (DAYAN'S POSITION, IN THIS CONNECTION IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT: NOURISHED IN LABOR'S TRADITION OF PIONEERING LAND SETTLEMENT AND AS THE MINISTER ORIGINALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RAFIAH SETTLEMENTS, HIS PERSONAL AMBIVALENCE REGARDING THE CONFLICTING REQUIREMENTS OF JEWISH SELF-REDEMPTION ON THE ONE HAND, AND PEACE ON THE OTHER, SYMBOLIZE THAT OF THE NATION AS A WHOLE.) THE GOVERNMENT, IN BOWING TO THESE REALITIES, ALSO SIGNALLED THE RIGHTIST OPPOSITION THAT IT WILL BE GUIDED BY ITS OWN ANALYSIS OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SITUATION AND WILL NOT BE DEFLECTED BY SANCTIMONIOUS PREACHING AND SHRILL INVECTIVE FROM ANY COURSE IT DECIDES UPON.

5. THE BLOW TO SHARON WAS A SERIOUS ONE. HE IS THE OBJECT OF INCREASING ANIMOSITY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, AND HIS DOUBLE DEFEAT ON SUNDAY HAS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY REDUCED HIS INFLUENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT. KNESSET MEMBERS HAVE COMMENTED THAT ANY SELF-RESPECTING MINISTER WOULD HAVE RESIGNED FROM THE CABINET AFTER SUCH A CLEAR REPUDIATION. INSTEAD SHARON APPARENTLY INTENDS TO USE HIS MINISTERIAL POSITION TO PRESS HIS VIEWS: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CABINET SESSION HE VIGOROUSLY ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT (AT THE HERUT MEETING) FOR ITS TEPID SUPPORT OF SETTLEMENT IN SINAI.

6. THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY DELEGATIONS ARE MADE UP FOR THE MOST PART OF SOLID TECHNICIANS RATHER THAN POLITICAL

HARDLINERS. THE BEGIN-DAYAN-WEIZMAN TRIUMVIRATE
SHOULD BE VERY MUCH IN CONTROL, WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE
TEAMS IN JERUSALEM AND CAIRO. WEIZMAN HAS CONFIRMED THAT
ZIPORI WAS NAMED TO THE MILITARY TEAM SO THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00414 02 OF 02 102202Z

HE MAY DEPUTIZE FOR WEIZMAN DURING THE LATTER'S UPCOMING VISIT
TO WASHINGTON.
LEWIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV00414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780015-0391
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780178/aaaacoml.tel
Line Count: 237
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1e9beae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3797062
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUNDAY'S CABINET SESSION: AN ASSESSMENT SUMMARY: THE CABINET, IN ITS SUNDAY SESSION, REJECTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI, BUT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e9beae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014